

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicant's disclosure is generally directed to a cover for protecting electronic components and a bracket for securing the cover to an electronic unit. The bracket includes an insert portion and a locking part. The cover includes a clamp and a ratchet. The ratchet is locked with the locking part and the insert portion is inserted into the clamp so that the cover is thereby locked in place with the bracket.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) and Hiroshi (JP 10-318142). It is respectfully submitted, however, that the claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

AAPA is generally directed to a bracket and a cover for covering electronic components of a compressor. The cover includes two ratchets, each of which locks with one locking hole in the bracket, respectively.

Hiroshi is generally directed to a bracket and a cover for covering electronic components of a compressor. The bracket includes two locking parts which, when inserted into respective locking holes in the cover, are used as fulcrums to aid in locking a ratchet formed in the cover with a locking hole formed in the bracket.

Applicant's invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

...a bracket fixed to a compressor unit, the bracket having a fixing portion, an insert portion and a locking part having a locking hole...

...a cover...having a clamp into which a distal end of the insert portion is inserted...the insert portion including the distal end and the locking part protrude from the fixing portion in the same direction. (Emphasis added).

In the exemplary embodiment described in Applicant's disclosure, this means that the bracket has a portion that is inserted into a clamp in the cover. The bracket also has a locking part and a fixing portion. The portion of the bracket that is inserted into the clamp and the locking part protrude from the fixing portion in the same direction. This feature is found in the originally filed application in original claim 1 and FIGs. 1-2. No new matter has been added.

AAPA is directed to a bracket and a cover for covering electronic components of a compressor. As shown in FIG. 7, the bracket 20 includes two locking holes 45. The cover 50 includes two tapered ratchets 70. When the cover is in place over the bracket, the ratchets 70 lock into respective locking holes 45 to secure the cover in place. See Applicant's Background Section at p. 1, line 26 through p. 2, line 9.

AAPA is different from the embodiment recited in Applicant's claim 1 because AAPA's bracket does not include an insert portion, as defined in Applicant's claim 1. That is, AAPA's bracket includes two locking holes, but does not include any portion that is inserted into a clamp in the cover. Because AAPA does not disclose such insert portion, AAPA also does not disclose "the insert portion including the distal end and the locking part protrude from the fixing portion in the same direction," as required by Applicant's claim 1.

Hiroshi is also directed to a bracket and a cover for covering electronic components of a compressor. As shown in FIGs. 3 and 4, the bracket 11 has a portion with a snap hole 14 and a portion with locking parts 12. As shown in FIGs. 6 and 7, the cover has locking holes 17 and a snap 18. When the cover is in place on the bracket, the locking parts 12 are inserted into respective locking holes 17. The locking parts 12 are then used as fulcrums to lock the snap 18 with the snap hole 14. See English Abstract, Solution Section.

Hiroshi is different from the embodiment recited in Applicant's claim 1. The Examiner argues that Hiroshi "discloses insert portion 17 and the corresponding clamps (unnumbered) which receive the insert portions." In response to this argument, Applicant respectfully points out that elements 17 are locking holes, not portions that are inserted into a clamp. See English Abstract, Solution Section. Even if locking parts 12 were read as insert portions and locking holes 17 were read as clamps, the portion of the locking parts 12 that is inserted into locking holes 17 and the portion including the snap hole 14 do not "protrude from the fixing portion in the same direction." See FIG. 3. Accordingly, Hiroshi also does not disclose "the insert portion including the distal end and the locking part protrude from the fixing portion in the same direction," as required by Applicant's claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

Claims 2-5 include all the features of claim 1 from which they depend. Thus, claims 2-5 are also patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

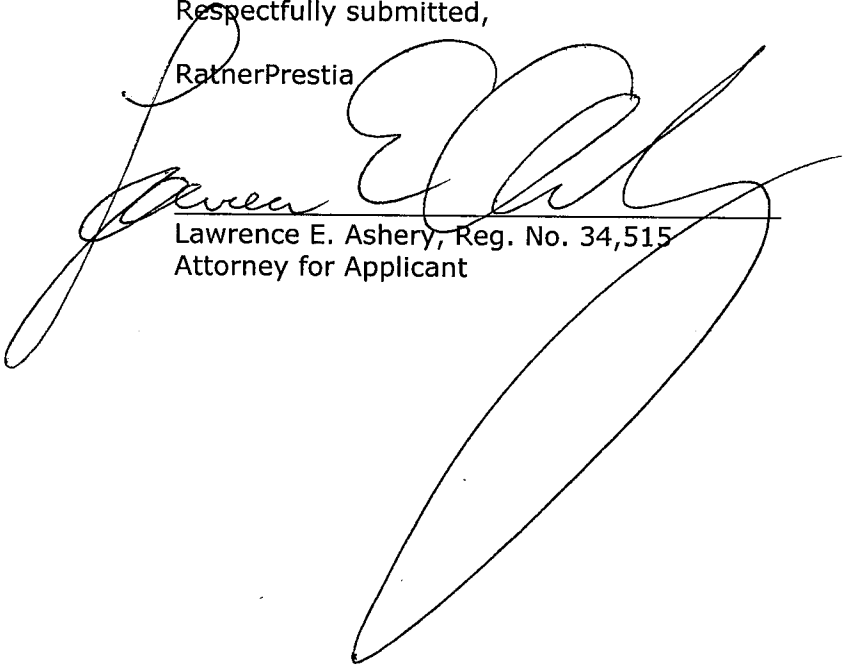
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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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